

PICKAWAY COUNTY PARK DISTRICT

Volume 3 Issue 1 - 2023



PARK NEWS:

By: Arista Hartzler

With 2023 underway there is much to celebrate! The District is pleased to share that in 2022, our park and trails had over 84,000 visitors. The District is excited to see people getting outside, joining us for park programs and volunteering with the District. In 2022 the District hosted 44 Park Programs and various other outreach programs and saw over 1,800 attendees, while our volunteers spent over 380 hours leading these programs, and caring for our parks. This year we are striving to introduce even more visitors to our parks and offer even more exciting educational and volunteer events. Our full park program listing is now available on our website [here](#) and you can see upcoming events on the right side of this page. We hope that you will join us and reap the rewards of getting outside and enjoying our natural spaces. If you are interested in learning more about what the District accomplished in 2022 check out our Year In Review [here](#).

The District is also excited to announce our newest board member, Jeff Philips. Jeff is the current director for the Pickaway County YMCA and we are eager to have his perspective to guide the District over the next years. Jeff is replacing long time member Tracie Sorvillo. Tracie served the District for 7 years and was instrumental to getting the park levy past, as well as in many of our other significant accomplishments. She will be greatly missed and we thank her for her service to the Park District.

Curious to learn about more of the Park District's Projects? Visit our website [Here](#). Curious to know more about the events you see listed on the right? Visit our website [Here](#).

EVENTS IN THE PARK:

UPCOMING PARK EVENTS

Parks At Dark - Owl Hike

January 28th 6:00pm @
Metzger Preserve

How to Keep a Bird Checklist

February 11th at 10:00am @
Canal Park

Monthly Group Walk Along

March 1st at 9:30 am @
Pickaway Trail (Canal Road)

Arachnid's: The World of Spiders

March 25th at 1:00 pm: @
Canal Park



VOLUNTEERS:

by Arista Hartzler

The District is excited to share the release of our 2023 Volunteer Events Calendar! We are eager to offer a large variety of opportunities to participate in park improvement projects like, beautifying the new Cooks Creek Nature Preserve, beating back invasive species at Canal Park and picking up trash along the creek at Metzger Preserve. This year we are now offering the opportunity to participate in events like these in the evenings and on weekends in hopes that this will make it easier for more people to participate. We hope that you will check out the full listing of volunteer events on our website [here](#). If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact Jean Webb at jwebb@pickawaycountyohio.gov or by calling our office at 740-420-5451.

Looking for other ways to get involved? The District is looking for help with our annual Experience Earth Camps which is to be hosted at Cooks Creek Nature Preserve July 18th - 21st, as well as help manning our booth at the County Fair June 19th - 23rd. Contact Arista Hartzler at ahartzler@pickawaycountyohio.gov for more information.

Keep an eye out for future invasive removal events and other activities going on at the park by signing up to be a volunteer on our website. Click [here](#) for our calendar of events.

Below: Volunteers plants and caring for pollinator area at Canal Park



Above: Volunteers and Participants of our 2022 Group Walk at Metzger Preserve

OPPORTUNITYS TO SERVE:

RSVP to jwebb@pickawaycountyohio.gov

- **January Events (By RSVP Only)**
 - Thursday 12th 10:00 am -12:00 pm @ Metzger Preserve for trail trimming (Meet at sign)
 - Wednesday 18th 1:00-3:00 pm @ TBD
- **February Events (By RSVP Only)**
 - Friday 10th 3:00-5:30 pm @ Cook Creek Nature Preserve for TBD
 - Wednesday 22nd 1:00-3:00 pm @ Calamus Swamp for TBD
 - Tuesday 28th 10:00 am -12:00 pm @ TBD Rain Date
- **March Events (By RSVP Only)**
 - Sunday 12th 1:00 - 3:00 pm @ Pickaway Trail for invasive removal (Meet at trailhead on Canal Road)
 - Wednesday 22nd 1:00 - 3:00 pm @ TBD Rain Date
 - Thursday 30th 12:00 - 2:00 pm @ TBD Rain Date



NATURE FACTS:

by Marilyn Clifton

A snowflake can be a single ice crystal with its water molecules arranged in a precise hexagonal array or a cluster of snow crystals. Snowflakes are made of crystals, the only nonliving things on earth that grow, made up of tiny identical parts arranged in repeating patterns.

Snowflakes are not frozen raindrops. A crystal grows when water vapor in very cold air changes directly into ice, freezing instantly, without first becoming liquid water. As more water vapor condenses onto the crystal, it grows, developing six-sided snowflakes. Snowflakes are always shaped like hexagons because when water freezes into ice, water molecules hook together to form small hexagons. That is when snowflake patterns emerge. Wind causes crystals to swirl from cloud to cloud. The crystals, always moving, grow heavier in the wet atmosphere of the clouds. Hundreds of crystals clump together, changing, growing, and breaking away to form new snowflakes.

Each snowflake is unique as different shapes form in the different cloud layers. At the highest and coldest levels, snowflakes are dry and fluffy. Wet, heavy snowflakes fall from warmer temperatures in lower clouds. Moisture in the clouds also affects the size and shape of snowflakes. More moisture causes a snowflake to grow faster and larger. Snowflakes grow more slowly in cold, dry air with small, simple shapes. All shapes last less than a minute, changing again and again.

When temperatures in clouds and on earth are both freezing, crystals stay in the form of snow and fall to the ground. Gravity pulls the flakes down, spinning and changing shapes along the way. It takes about 100,000 water droplets to make a single snowflake heavy enough to fall to earth.



Above: Up-close view of a snowflake

IMPORTANT DATES:

January Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 24th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

February Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 28th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

March Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 28th

When: 12:00 pm

Where: Cooks Creek Nature Preserve

Below: Up-close view of snowflakes



FEATURED PARK: STAGES POND

From ODNR's Website

Stage's Pond State Nature Preserve, dedicated August 23, 1974, is nature's own monument to the great ice fields which once covered most of Ohio 17,000 years ago. Today, some 30 acres of this 64-acre depression lie under water with two adjacent marshy low areas in the central and southern parts of the depression. These areas, coupled with adjacent field and woodland areas, offer an opportunity to explore a number of habitats, each with its own unique array of species.

In the spring and fall, Stage's Pond is a refuge for a wide variety of waterfowl which stop during migration to rest and feed on the pond and marshy areas. Summer residents include a nesting community of great blue herons and many species of shorebirds. The oak-hickory uplands and open fields support populations of songbirds, quail, pheasant and several hawk species. Stage's Pond is equally diverse botanically. Aquatic, field, woodland and marsh species abound from April to late October, although the spring season offers the most variety in the form of colorful native wildflowers.

- Open 1/2 hour before sunrise, 1/2 hour after sunset
- Stay on designated trails
- Pets are not permitted

Learn more [here](#).



QUICK FACTS:

Owned by ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Contact: (614) 265-6561

Location: 4792 Hagerty Rd
Ashville, OH 43103

